(b) The Director General (Investigation & Registration) had filed an application before the MRTP Commission alleging restrictive trade practices by some cement manufacturers.

(c) Cement prices in four metropolitan cities as on 31-12-1991 and on 14-2-1992 (15-2-1992 being a holiday) are given below:

	31-12-91	14-2-92
Delhi . . .	94—98	106—114
Calcutta . .	102—121	98—115
Bombay . . .	100—105	100—105
Madras . . .	98—103	98—103

(d) With a view to contain cement prices, the strategy of Government has been on maximising cement production as also minising the regional imbalances in its availability For this purpose, infrastructural support to the industry, particularly in respect of availability of coal, power and rail wagons for movement of coal and cement is being closely monitored and remedial action taken wherever necessary.

Iodisation of salt

502. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments have been advised to take necessary steps to make compulsory use of iodised salt; and

(b) if so, the State where iodised salt is still not being used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.J. KURIEN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Though in all States/Union Territories iodised salt is being used wholly or partially, States/Union Territories of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka Rajasthan, Orissa, Goa, Gujarat, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Pondicherry and Andaman & Nicobar have yet to issue notifications banning the use of common salt in their entire areas.

Effects of New Industrial Policy on self-employed workers

503. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made regarding the number of self-employed persons engaged in the traditional occupations and cottage industries which are likely to be displaced because of the New Industrial Policy .

(b) if so, the number of such self-employed persons and the categories of traditional and cottage industries, which will be affected ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to protect and rehabilitate such displaced workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. J. KURIEN) : (a) The New Industrial Policy will not have any adverse impact on the self-employed persons engaged in traditional occupations and cottage industries. On the contrary owing to these policies, employment in this sector will go up. The employment in Khadi and Village Industries Sector including self-employment which was 47.93 lakh persons in 1990-91 is likely to increase to 65.35 lakh persons by the end of the Eighth Plan. Similarly, employment in the Small Scale Sector will increase from 124.3 lakh persons in 1990-91 to 150.5 lakh persons by the end of the Eighth Plan.

(b) to (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.